

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

Parasite - Blood Confirmation (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Blood Smears and EDTA Blood	See Comments	Blood smears for malaria and babesiosis should be taken at 8 to 12 hour intervals for 2 to 3 days (if needed).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain capillary blood by fingerstick, or obtain venous blood by venipuncture. • Blood smears must be made within one hour of collection. 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Slides. • Rejection Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broken slides. ○ Leaking specimen. • Transport: Ship at ambient temperature. Ship as Category B. • Storage: Store at ambient temperature.

General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Leaky specimen.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.
- Reason for testing at WAPHL.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments

- Specimens should be collected before treatment is initiated whenever possible.
- If a filarial infection is suspected, the optimal collection time for demonstrating microfilariae is:
 - Loa loa – midday (10 AM to 2 PM)
 - Brugia or Wuchereria – at night, after 8 PM
 - Mansonella – any time
 - Onchocerca – any time